

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KAUNDA OPENS NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT KAUNDA OPENED WEEK-LONG SESSION OF UNIP NATIONAL COUNCIL APRIL 20 WITH THREE HOURS OF RATHER RAMBLING EXHORTATIONS AND THREATS IN EFFORT STIMULATE 600 LEADERS PRESENT TO MOVE AHEAD VIGOROUSLY WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES. WORKABLE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT MACHINERY NOW FINALLY IN PLACE AND PERIOD OF LEARNING HOW TO USE IT PASSED; NOW IT TIME TO ACT AND CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH UNIP. SAYING IT ESSENTIAL IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LEADERS AND GRASS ROOTS, HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ORGANIZING LATTER FOR FULL PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS. TOUCHING WIDE VARIETY OF ISSUES FROM SHORTAGES AND CRIME TO POLITICAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES, PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ON HOW TO CONDUCT NATION'S BUSINESS. IN ONE CRITICAL AREA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HE WAS SURPRISINGLY WEAK AND IN-CONCLUSIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. KAUNDA DESCRIBED POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AS "MOST IMPORTANT DUTY" OF ALL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND CALLED FOR "DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT" OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. WITH ONE-PARTY STATE INSTALLED AND POLITICAL SABOTEURS THUS SUBSTANTIALLY NEUTRALIZED, THERE NO FURTHER EXCUSE FOR FAILURE.

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3. PRESIDENT URGED IMPROVED PARTY ORGANIZATION AND DISCIPLINE. HE REPEATEDLY INSISTED PARTICULARLY ON GOOD ORGANIZATION AT VILLAGE AND SECTION LEVEL AND ON IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MASSES AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. THIS ESSENTIAL TO ATTAINMENT OF "PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY." CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTY COMMITTEES AT ALL PLACES OF WORK TO SUPPLEMENT REGULAR PARTY BRANCHES. COMMITTEES WOULD SERVE AS WATCH DOGS TO ASSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES, PREVENT PHYSICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SABOTAGE, INSURE AGAINST DELIBERATE OR CARELESS CREATION OF SHORTAGES, AND FIGHT CRIME. ALONG WITH OTHER PARTY ORGANS AND SCHOOLS, SUCH COMMITTEES TO SERVE AS VEHICLES FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION AND INFUSION OF PATRIOTISM.

4. SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT WITH APPARENT CENTRAL PURPOSE OF ADDRESS, HE DEVOTED ONLY SMALL PART OF SPEECH TO GOVERNMENT AS OPPOSED TO PARTY OPERATION: CABINET'S MAIN TASK IS POLICY IMPLEMENTATION; PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE MORE DISCIPLINED AND MUST NOT BECOME CENTER FOR ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES; GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' LAZINESS AND IRRESPONSIBILITY WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED; RURAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD PROCEED, SINCE VILLAGE AND WARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES EXIST AND PROVIDE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY.

5. KAUNDA CALLED ATTENTION OF COUNCIL TO ISSUES DIRECTLY AFFECTING DAILY LIVES OF PEOPLE. RE SHORTAGES OF BASIC COMMODITIES, HE LASHED MANAGERS OF STORES AND STATE ENTERPRISES WHO FAIL PLACE ORDERS IN TIMELY FASHION AND THREATENED THEY WOULD BE FIRED. DECLARED PENALTIES WOULD BE IMPOSED ON BUSINESSMEN WHO HOARD COMMODITIES AND ON IMPORTERS WHO FAIL REMOVE INCOMING SHPMENTS FROM STORAGE. RE RISING CRIME RATE, KAUNDA CALLED ON COUNCIL TO PROPOSE STIFFER SENTENCES AND MORE RIGID PRISON SYSTEM; RULED OUT OFTEN ADVOCATED PUBLIC EXECUTION OF ARMED ROBBERS, BUT, IN REMARK NOT INCLUDED IN PUBLISHED TEXT, SAID PRIVATE EXECUTION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. APPEALED FOR PARTY ORGANS AT ALL LEVELS TO ASSIST IN DETECTION OF CRIMINALS AND CARRY OUT PUBLIC SECURITY EDUCATION. KAUNDA ALSO ATTACKED LANDLORDS CHARGING HIGH RENTS AND PLEDGED ROLL-BACK OF URBAN LAND PRICES.

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6. DECLARING IT PARTY'S TASK TO CREATE AN EGALITARIAN SOCIETY AND REPEATEDLY STRESSING RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERS, PRESIDENT STOUTLY ASSERTED NEED FOR LEADERSHIP CODE AND STATED JUNE 20 DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE STANDS. HE PROMISED UNIFORM CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND SALARY SCALES FOR GOVERNMENT AND PARASTATAL EMPLOYEES. SAID ACTION TO BE INITIATED TO BRING ABOUT "RATIONALIZATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS" AS CALLED FOR BY UNIP MANIFESTO FOR 1974-1984.

7. COMMENT. SPEECH WAS FAR FROM KAUNDA'S BEST EFFORT.
THIS RATHER SURPRISING IN LIGHT HIS IMPATIENCE AND HIS
RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE THE LEAD AND INSPIRATION. MUCH
HAD BEEN MADE OF EXTENSION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING TO
5 DAYS FOR FIRST TIME, RATHER THAN NORMAL 2-3 DAYS, SO IT
COULD ENGAGE IN MORE EXTENSIVE AND SERIOUS DELIBERATIONS.
MOREOVER, PRESIDENT HAD EVEN EARLIER MADE IT QUITE CLEAR
HE THINKS ZAMBIANS HAVE TAKEN ENOUGH TIME TO GAIN EXPERIENCE
AND ORGANIZE A SYSTEM SUITABLE TO THEIR NEEDS AND MUST
THEREFORE NOW GET TO WORK ON PRACTICAL ISSUES OF THE DAY.
WILKOWSKI

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